Acute Shortage of Imported Carbon Steel Melting Scrap

2371. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to acute shortage of imported carbon steel melting scrap, a large number of steel plants have been shut down in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Carbon steel melting scrap can be freely imported for use by the secondary steel sector.

(b) The production of electric arc furnace units (mini steel plants) is affected by various factors such as market demand, input costs, availability of power, etc. The industry has represented that increase of import duty on steel melting scrap coupled with rise in international prices of scrap as well as increase of excise duty on steel products in the Budget for 1993-94 has adversely affected the performance of the units.

Transfer of Land of Vijayanagar Steel Plant

2372. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the matter relating to transfer of land and other assets of Vijayanagar Steel Plant to the Government of Karnataka has been pending with the Centre for an inordinately long time;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether this delay has been preventing the Government of Karnataka from entertaining proposals from various investors, both Indian and overseas, for revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has already decided in principle to transfer its shareholding in Vijayanagar Steel Limited along with land and other assets to the Government of Karnataka. This has also been conveyed to the State Government.

Requirement of Metallurgical Coal of SAIL

2373. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the requirement of metallurgical coal for different Steel Plants of SAIL and VSP in terms of quality and quantity;

(b) how much out of this coal is being supplied by CIL and its subsidiaries in terms of quality and quantity;

(c) what is the landed cost of this coal supplied by CIL and what is the ash content; and

(d) the quality of coal being imported for metallurgical use and what is its landed cost in terms of rupees and what is its ash content?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The requirement of metallurgical coal vary from year to year depending on the Hot Metal production planned. During 1993-94, total requirement of metallurgical coal for different steel plants for Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) is indicated as under :—

(Unit Million Tonnes)

Plant	Indigenous	Imported	Total
Bhilai Steel Plant	3.18	1.61	4.79
Durgapur Steel Plant	1.44	0.50	1.94
Rourkela Steel Plant	1.34	0.58	1.92
Bokaro Steel Plant	2.90	1.51	4.41
Indian Iron & Steel Company	1.64	0.30	1.94
TOTAL SAIL :	10.50	4.50	15.00
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	0.80	1.88	2.68
GRAND TOTAL :	11.30	6.38	17.68

(b) During 1993-94, CIL has indicated availability of 10.8 million tonnes (10.0 million tonnes to SAIL and 0.8 million tonnes to VSP) of metallurgical coal at an average ash content of 19+0.5%, and 21% respectively.

(c) The average landed cost of coal supplied by CIL was Rs. 1208 per tonne (provisional) during 1992-93 at SAIL's Steel Plants. The average weighted ash content of coking coal supplied by CIL during 1992-93 was 20%.